

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7687

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA

SUBJ: RETURN OF PRESIDENT BANDA FROM VISIT TO ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 047

1. PRESIDENT BANDA RETURNED TO LILONGWE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON OBVIOUSLY GREATLY PLEASED AND GRATIFIED WITH THE RECEPTION HE RECEIVED IN ZAMBIA. HE APPARENTLY GOT A SPECIAL KICK OUT OF THE ACCOLADE DESTROYER OF THE FEDERATION REFTEL) AND HUMOROUSLY ANNOUNCED IN HIS SPEECH TO THE WELCOMING AIRPORT CROWD OF SOME 8-10,000 THAT HE WAS NOW DISCARDING HIS DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND EDINBURGH AND WOULD USE ONLY DOF HENCEFORTH. HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA OR OTHER ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS BUT DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE THEME THAT THIS VISIT PROVED HOW WRONG WERE HIS CRITICS WHO HAD CALLED HIM "THE BLACK SHEEP OF AFRICAN POLITICAL LEADERS," "THE ODD MAN OUT."

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING ARRIVHL, BANDA STRESSED THAT VISIT HAD CEMENTED POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAWI AND ZAMBIA. HE COMPARED SUCCESS OF ZAMBIA VISIT WITH NOW "FAMOUS" STATE VISIT HE MADE TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1971. HE SAID ZAMBIA
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HAD ASSURED HIM THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE

PHYSICAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT
ZAMBIA IS PLANNING TO BUILD RAILWAY TO CHIPATA TO
JOIN MALAWI SYSTEM. LILONGWE-MCHINJI ROAD ALSO REFERRED
TO IN THIS CONTEXT.

3. MALAWI AMB TO US ROBERT MBAYA TOLD US THAT
A ZAMBIAN SECURITY OFFICIAL HAD VOLUNTEERED TO HIM
IT WAS WARMEST RECEPTION YET TO A VISITING HEAD OF STATE
IN ZAMBIA. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT CHIPATA CROWDS WERE
MOST ENTHUSIASTIC. WE EXPECT TO TALK WITH MBAYA HERE
NEXT WEEK AND HOPE LEARN SOMETHING RE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS
WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED.

STEVENSON

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